

[961-Apr 2]

April 2, 1961

Leo P. Carlin, Mayor
City of Newark
Newark 2, New Jersey

Dear Mayor Carlin:

My sincere thanks for the very kind words in your note of March 21, in which you request that I consider reappointment to the Mayor's Commission on Group Relations through June of 1962.

Your considerate comments concerning my activities on the Commission deserve a statement acknowledging the complete cooperation you and your staff have always furnished. Much credit for the reputation of the Commission must be shared with your Executive Director, Daniel S. Anthony, his former assistant, Walter Chambers, and each of the Commissioners.

It seems proper that before accepting your offer for reappointment that we briefly review the past, take note of our present activities and recommend such actions for the future as will assure continued success in the expanding and dynamic city of which you are the elected head.

Until this year, our Commission has been successful in maintaining a modicum of peaceful intergroup relationships through preventive techniques of quiet persuasion and conciliation. It will be the intent of the Commission, if I am permitted to serve, to continue along these lines in an over-all series of educational activities. However, the world, the national and the local situation in the field of intergroup relations require an awareness of the rapid pace at which alterations are taking place.

As Chairman of the Commission, it is my duty to recommend to you, as Mayor, such actions deemed necessary for continued improvements in the field of intergroup relationships as will reflect most favorably upon you and your administration. More and more requests for advice, guidance and assistance are being received from various neighborhood groups throughout the city. As an example, our last Commission meeting received representatives of three organizations, the Clinton Hill Neighborhood Council, the Weequahic Neighborhood Council and the M.A.A.C.P. These groups requested the Commission to assist in the preparation and presentation to the City Council of a Private Fair Housing Practices Ordinance, similar to the bill now bottled-up in the New Jersey State Senate caucus. Failure of the Commission to take action in support of such an Ordinance would result in criticism of the Commission and the Mayor it represents. If such an Ordinance were to be passed by the Council, it would necessarily follow that the Commission would require an increase in staff to administer such an Ordinance effectively. (Based upon experiences in New York City and Philadelphia.)

I need not remind you of the pressures of the active minority groups who look for leadership and action from you and your representatives. In order to continue to provide that leadership, it is my sincere hope that you will review and support the recommendations of the Commission for:

- a. An increase in paid staff of the Commission to provide for a Spanish-speaking member.
- b. An increase in the salary schedule of the Assistant to the Executive Director so that we may attract qualified applicants for this vacant position.
- c. An increase in the salary schedule of the position of Executive Director in keeping with the salaries for this position in cities of similar size.

It is the opinion of the Commission that these are minimum requests that deserve consideration and are vital to maintain and advance the effectiveness of the Commission.

Mayor Carlin, I would be honored to accept your request that I be reappointed to the Commission. I pledge myself to continue to work for the best interests of all the citizenry of this community, but all of us realize that the best job can be done only with the active support of the man, the Mayor, on whose shoulders rests the responsibility for the future of this fine city.

Sincerely yours,

Alexander Lucas